

Application No.: 10/810,436

Docket No.: JCLA12013

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-23 are subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121. Specifically, the Office Action considers the present invention in two groups:

Group I : claims 1-14; and

Group II : claims 15-23.

In addition, Group I is further considered in three distinct species:

Species I : FIGs. 1A-1C;

Species II : FIGs. 2A-2C; and

Species III : Figs. 5-6.

Applicants preliminarily elect Species I of Group I for examination. However, Applicants respectfully request considering the three species I-III, set by the Office Action, as a single species.

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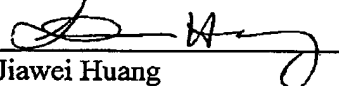
Discussion of Election/Restrictions

Applicants have elected Species I of Group I, based on FIGs. 1A-1C, which support claims 1 and 3-8. Applicants respectfully request considering Species II-III together because independent claim 1 is generic. Claim 1 reads on each of Species I-III. Furthermore, claim 1 is believed allowable. Thus election of species from Group I is believed improper and does not meet the requirements of the stipulation of 37 CFR 1.146. Therefore, this election is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

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Respectfully submitted,
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